

# SICK SOLDIERS BEATEN UP IN VETERANS' HOSPITAL AND SUFFER Miserable Conditions

... youth demands proven that  
... ganization realizes that the  
... workers as the most exploit  
... of the workers, must be tak  
... and organized."











## YOUNG WORKER

An organ of the Militant Young Workers of America

Published semi-monthly by the National Executive Committee of the Young Workers (Communist) League of America

Editor: J. R. KAPLAN

Send all orders and articles, and remit all funds to

THE YOUNG WORKER

7119 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

### Editorials

**EAST OHIO CONFERENCE**  
THE East Ohio conference of young workers is a great event in the struggle of the young workers of this country. It is also a very important step in the development of the Young Workers (Communist) League.

Its importance is not so much in the practical achievements (although these are not bad, 75 subscribers to the Young Worker, concrete demands adopted by the conference, which proves that the league is becoming the leader in the economic struggles of the youth, gaining influence among the young and adult miners in this section, new league units formed, experience gained, etc.) as in its real attempt to enter in the masses, to start mass activity.

Our league in the past was a collection of more or less isolated units, isolated not only from the masses of young workers, but often from each other. We had resolutions about mass work, in some places, but they were sporadic, journalistic—there was no persistent, insistent activity without loud noise, without a half hour's enthusiasm and then—indifference or negligence. We must acknowledge this experience and not forget that this conference is only "the beginning of the beginning."

The importance of this conference also is in the fact that we have started the work among the youth in the basic industries. We must remember that the hundreds of thousands of young workers in these industries are unorganized. We haven't touched them as yet.

The mining industry is especially important for us now. Big unemployment, over production, impudent attacks of the bosses on the conditions of the miners, wages, hours, etc., after the attack on the anthracite workers, the bosses are now turning to the bituminous coal fields. The situation in East Ohio proves this. The bosses continue their attempt to smash the union. The future of the miners appears as a gloomy one.

The first step in the solution of this situation is to organize the miners, organize and strengthen the miners' unions all over the country and to create a united front against the bosses. The situation in the mining industry explains to us why so many (comparatively speaking) revolutionary young miners are in our ranks and why we must pay special attention to them.

The conference is only the beginning of our mass work; developing class consciousness of the young workers and organizing them for the struggle against the bosses.

We have made some mistakes—it is unavoidable. But notwithstanding these mistakes, we have taken a big step forward. In conclusion, we want to quote the following sentences from the letters of four young miners written to the Young Worker, (printed in this issue). These four young workers are not members of the Young Workers (Communist) League and have never had contact with our movement or organization:

"We have read your paper a few times and see where you print stories about young workers' conditions all over. We have decided to write to you about the work in the mines here."

We are satisfied. It is only the beginning. We have all reasons to be optimistic; we have a very hard job before us and the future will demand from us much sacrifice, but we will go persistently and courageously forward. We will organize the working youth; we will develop class consciousness of young workers. We will bring them to the final fight for the overthrow of the power of the bosses and to establish Communism.

# Ill Treatment of Soldiers in United States Army! For A United Front of Youth Against Capitalist Militarism

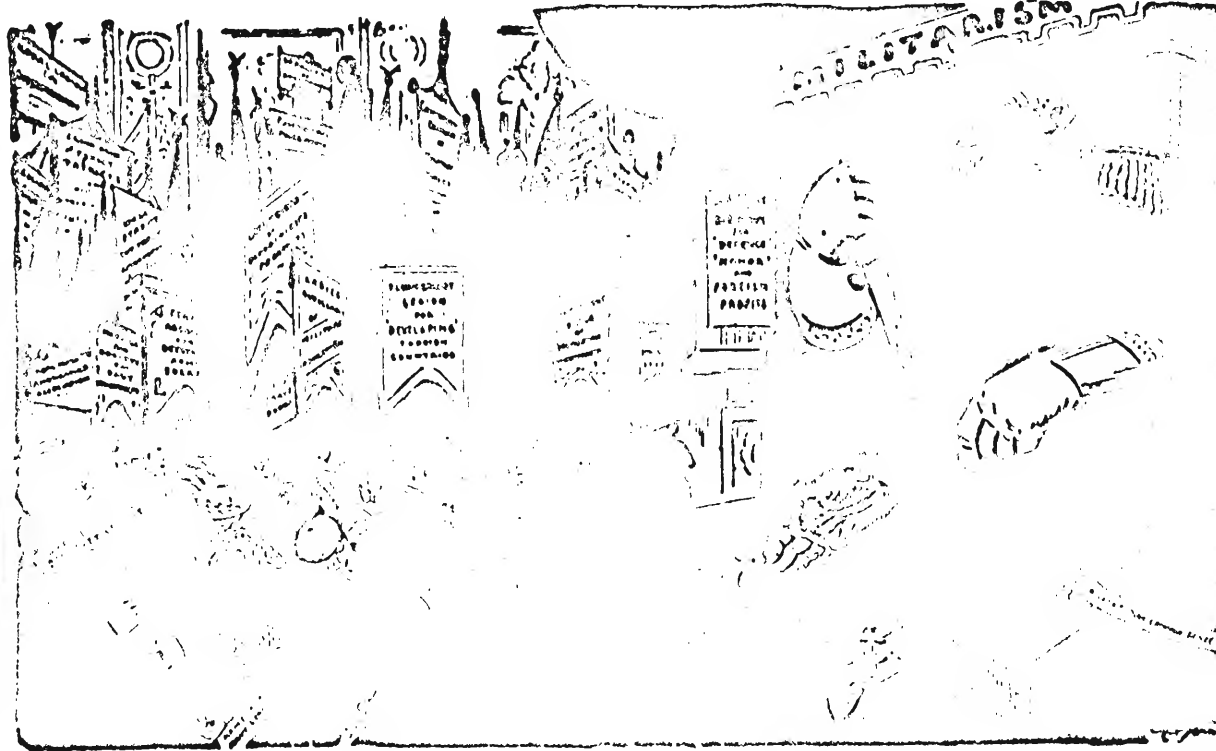
By WALTER TRUMBULL

THE private in the Hawaiian division of the U. S. army, and in fact the whole Hawaiian department, is accorded treatment that is almost unbelievable to civilians. Officers are directly responsible for this state of affairs. Many times I have heard men say that they would desert if they thought they could get off the island. It is a fact that the whole American army would desert if they were treated in the same manner in posts on the mainland.

**Framed on Bootleg Charges.**  
For instance, there is the case of the man (countless numbers of them) who were framed on bootleg charges. Marked money is put into the possession of the suspected man without his knowledge of the fact that it is marked. I have seen sworn statements to the effect that a certain officer had defaced silver dollars for the sole purpose of getting a suspected man. Yet it is supposed to take an act of congress to change the appearance of our currency. The silver dollars in question were marked by obliterating the "O" in God, where the slogan "In God we trust" is marked. The man suspected proved by four witnesses that he had no liquor in his possession at the time, yet the man who handed him the marked money was able to convict him by his testimony alone.

**Must Pay For Uniform.**  
Then there is the case of the man who is ordered to purchase a tailor-made uniform. He refuses on the ground that the U. S. is supposed to provide him with food, shelter and clothing. He claims, and rightly, that if the U. S. wants him to wear tailor-made uniforms, they should be provided by the government. Yet he buys the uniform.

He receives a "direct order" to purchase the uniform and is told that the guard-house is



United Front of Youth Against Militarism!

waiting for those who disobey direct orders. The new recruit falls for this line and does purchase the uniform, but there are some few, 'tis true, who have contested the legality successfully. These last are older men who have become better informed as to their rights, even in the army. The reason for the lack of daring ones is the fact that a court-martial will uphold an officer against a private under almost any conditions.

**Private Stabbed by Officer.**  
To prove the last statement I need but mention the following case: A prisoner was walking along the side of the street inside the quadrangle, on the left side, which is the rule in the post. An officer marching at the left front of a column of soldiers was rapidly overtaking him. As he drew nearer he shouted to the prisoner to move out of the way, but because of

the noise of the many marching feet, his voice was drowned before the prisoner heard him. The officer called again, with the same result. For a third time he called with out the prisoner making the desired move. The officer was within striking distance by this time and he dropped the point of his sabre into line with the prisoner's back and lunged forward.

The result was an inch deep wound between the shoulder blades. The officer was brot up for trial but the prisoner, who had a short time to be in the guard house before his release and re-instatement, did not dare to appear against him. The result of the trial was not made public and the whole affair was hushed up.

**Framing Soldiers.**  
The methods used for framing the soldier is simply itself. The defendant is brot be-

fore an "investigating officer," so-called. The charges are read to him and he is asked if he has any statement to make. If there are witnesses to appear against him the "investigating officer" listens to the evidence which is prepared in advance then asks if there is to be any cross examination. The questions must first be asked of the "investigating officer" who in turn asks them of the witnesses, thereby giving him a chance to form his answer in advance. There is no chance for a direct cross examination.

It is just conditions of this nature which is driving the worker and farmer soldiers in the U. S. army towards class consciousness. The soldiers, sailors and marines will have to develop to the point where they will organize themselves to fight against all such injustices.

By PAUL CROUCH.

COMRADES, I regret that at the present time I am unable to take an active part in the struggle against capitalism. However, I send you my greetings and assurance that iron bars cannot imprison my rebel spirit.

The sentences of 26 and 40 years received by Walter Trumbull and me were intended as a test case—as a precedent for more severe sentences for the fighters in the labor movement.

It is the foundation of a structure that is of the greatest importance. If we let the capitalist build a foundation of persecution and suppression of opinion, we will have a structure of economic and intellectual slavery.

**Workers Must Awake!**

The sooner the American worker becomes class conscious and asserts his rights, the less suffering he will be forced to endure from the white terror of capitalism. If the worker remains asleep he can see his future in the present condition of Italy and Hungary.

Once the working class becomes conscious of its rights and powers nothing can stand in its way. When that time comes it will be the dawn of a new age. No national or racial hatreds will mar the beauty of the Communist society—the universal comradeship of free and happy workers.

**Pacifism For Fools and Cowards.**

Between us and the realization of this goal stands the force of capitalism—the synonym of economic serfdom. Greatest of all its weapons is militarism. When the opium of religion and the lure of nationalism lose their potency, armed force is the last resort of class rule.

We must make war against war. Pacifism is only fools and cowards. It is of no value against militarism. Tolstoy, one of the world's greatest pacifists was so harmless that he was permitted to work undisturbed in the most autocratic and militaristic of all countries, but Lenin who proposed war against war, was a greater menace to czarism while in exile, than Tolstoy on the inside of despotism's stronghold.

**Need Militant Fighters.**

We need militant fighters against capitalist militarism. We must make war against war and by defeating capitalist militarism, end all wars for all time.

"I ask for a sentence that will ring through the army and teach a lesson to the reds," said the assistant judge advocate at my court martial. The result was more than the agent of Wall Street could have desired. The sentence rang through the army, telling the soldiers that they have no right to think—that they are valuable only for cannon fodder. But of even greater importance, its echo was



After Fighting for...

heard by the workers in America, warning them of the dreadful octopus—that hides behind the military training and discipline.

**Soldiers and Workers**

Comrade Walter Trumbull and I did nothing that you could not have done in similar circumstances had placed a vital spot of imperialism in the center of the country. But the court-martial that tried us did something unusual. It gave a publication of the hate and that is the core of capitalism and its militarism. The Hawaiian Islands have more than local importance.

The sentences did not teach a lesson to the army. It was not of the kind by the army eazars. The martial verdicts denied the solidarity of international workers and the men of the army.

**Youth and Militarism**

When the children of workers are given instruction in school or by a young worker goes to the U. S. C. It is not just the situation in the art of murder; harmful; although a large force as the plaything of war lords is not to be feared. The primitive passions are aroused. National prejudices are encouraged. The unity of interests of all is forgotten as the youth is notified by the false ideal of a class state. And to the fotters stronger, he will to a despot at the head of state. Imperialism means equals class despotism.

The court-martial sentenced by Comrade Trumbull and myself tell the world the United States that means universal liability to 26 and 40 year sentences at labor for free thought or speech.

for us French.

Unhappily, my studies had to be a soldier. An army and degrading life. I had to (sustain it) I still militated and active in the movement. I cost me several months of my time, which I have only just recovered.

In three months I shall be released, my heart full of hate, shall return to civil life, never ever concerned to the war and accused capitalism.

My comrade, A. P., is like me at present in the military service. Like me, he will soon be free of the hands of Arms and Trade, and have to try to group the workers in the U. S. T. C. A. (Technical Students) and try to teach them to the proletarian. We shall also continue to help young students to make progress in the High Schools.

Now, dear comrade, you know. Write to us in your own language. If you wish we can prepare for you a little article of the situation of the young students in the French High Schools, in your language. We shall be wholeheartedly glad to contribute to your journal.

I enclose an order for 25 francs, am still a soldier (compulsory military service) and you will excuse me. It is so little.

Fraternally yours,

**Why Not Become a Worker Correspondent?**

## Petty-Bourgeois Anti-Militarism

By SAM DARCY.

MILITARISM is lashing the petty-bourgeois youth. These snug, self-satisfied college students who superciliously smiled at the "ravings" of the working youth against the oppressive system are now beginning to wake up from their complacency and are demonstrating their "rebellion."

On December 29-31 the Evansston Interdenominational Students' Conference with delegates from over one hundred and eighty colleges went on record against compulsory military training with only a few dissenting votes. At this conference they set up three demands as follows:

- Abolition of military training in church and denominational schools.
- Abolition of military training in the high schools.
- Abolition of military training in colleges and universities

including immediate abolition of its compulsory features in the land grant institutions.

One month earlier the National Study Conference on the Churches and World Peace which included representatives from twenty-eight units met in Washington and declared against the R. O. T. C. and C. M. T. C. and all special days such as mobilization day and defense test day. Even in black Tennessee the Methodist Young People's convention with four thousand delegates in attendance went on record against military training.

Church units of young people in South Dakota, Iowa, Ohio, and thruout the west and middle west have been declaring opposition to military training by the score.

The college youth in City College, New York, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Ia., Connecticut Valley Collegiate World Court

Conference, University of Minnesota, Ohio State University, just to take representative groups from all over the country have by huge majorities gone record against military training.

Why should this be so? These very college youth who sneered at the workers for their "soap boxing," are taking up the practice.

When we see the list of the organization who are fighting to spread military training we begin to see some light.

Among these are the Los Angeles chamber of commerce (Cruft said); the New York State War Mothers (an organization of well-to-do women who are exploiting their sons' deaths for social purposes); American Legion groups (Major Berry's pet reactionary tool); and scores of Bigger and Better business units of one kind or another.

In the struggle against the militarization of the civilian youth therefore, the proletariat finds allies; the petty bourgeoisie. They will desert the ranks of the opposition as soon as war even threatens. In no case will they ever fight with the workers against capitalism. We must however, not refuse to march with them against Big Capital when they are going our way.

We must enter their united front bodies and fight not only militarism but also their pacifist illusions. We must preserve our revolutionary integrity for it is clear to us on the basis of experience we have had with such bodies in the past that they will not march the whole way. We must say this not because we doubt their sincerity. No! But Lenin said we must learn to judge the possible tactics of others not on the basis of their personal characters, but on the basis of circumstances.

## Unite Against Capitalist Militarism

AMERICAN imperialism is today the strongest might in the world its control has spread not only in a literary phrase, but in actuality, to every nook and corner of the world. It is only in lands that are still undiscovered that the influence of American finance capital and American warships and troops is not felt—and dealt with as a powerful factor.

Especially since the end of the world war has America spread its imperialist sway. And it has been able to do this at the expense of its rival imperialist powers, Britain, France, Japan and others. While its strongest contender, Great Britain, slowly loses ground on the imperialist world front, America surges to the fore to establish its hegemony over the face of the earth.

The growth of American domination has not been marked by easy riding and smooth roads. On the contrary, the contradictions of imperialism have become more sharply intensified. Only tools and scoundrels will today maintain that a new world war in the immediate future is only a fantasy. It is but too much a certainty.

Resistance to the spread of American control is developing everywhere. On

the one hand are the growing troops of revolt in America's colonies—the demand of the peoples who feel American oppression for the overthrow of the imperialist tyrant. And on the other hand the spirit of desperate resistance which is developing among its rivals—especially Britain and Japan.

The day is swiftly approaching when the conflicts of the imperialist giants will not be possible of settlement around the conference table, when the demands of each power will be so insatiable that only one method will be left to them to decide who will be victor.

That method, as in the past, will be war! War on a scale so monstrous and devastating that the other wars of history will appear to have been mere street-corner scraps.

In this war the working class will be the victims. It will be the first section of the people to be sacrificed on the altar of capitalist war. And at the head of the fighters will be youth. The realization of the coming holocaust is bringing new masses of young workers, and students, and the agricultural population to a demand for a struggle against imperialism. From the Communists to the most liberal of groups there is a rising sentiment for

UNITY against capitalist militarism and war.

Workers, who must give up fathers, sons, brothers and sweethearts for a capitalist war, who feel the hand of militarism capitalism in every strike which is shattered by federal troops or the state militia, must rally to the call which is rising for a united front against militarism.

Students, who are being avidly prepared for participation in the next war by the R. O. T. C. and by military training in the high schools and colleges, must join hands with those other forces that are ready to fight the enemy of militarism.

To the radical and liberal elements everywhere the demand must go: a United Front against Capitalist Militarism!

We say frankly, that we do not believe the measures advocated by the pacifists will result in a successful struggle against capitalist militarism. We believe rather that only by revolutionary measures can this powerful enemy of the oppressed be brought to an end. But to those who are honest and sincerely interested in fighting against bourgeois militarism we say: Unite all forces that are ready for this fight! Unite with them not on the basis of a revolution, but on the basis of an honest and militant fight, on

## White Terror

Sentences of Class Justice.

GERMANY—L. R. A.—In January, 1928 the following sentences were passed by German class court against revolutionary workers: 143 workers were tried; 41 of them had to be acquitted and in five cases the trials were adjourned; 96 of the accused were sentenced to a total number of 14 years and 11 months of hard labor; 51 years and 8 months of jail; 2,180 marks and fines.

The sentences were passed for high treason, preparation and assistance in high treason, breach of peace, revolt, crime against the explosives law, insults and injury, murder and manslaughter, offense against the prohibition of the C. P. and the Y. C. L. in Bavaria, anti-military propaganda in the occupied territory, mutiny and others.

Organize the League in the shops and mines: there is where it COUNTS!

Issues which confront us at the moment. The danger is great and the enemy very strong, and every bit of effort will have to be sent to struggle against them.

Swift and powerful action must be the answer of all who want a real fight.

## LETTER FROM A FRENCH "PAUL CROUCH"

BREST, France, Feb. 19.—Dear Comrades: Excuse me for writing in French. Since over a year ago I have been doing my military service (in the marine) and I have greatly lost the habit of using your language.

You probably do not know to whom you send the Young Worker regularly. I will try to explain to you, in the hope that this letter will be the beginning of a correspondence which I undertake to continue.

When, at the suggestion of my uncle in Chicago, you began to send us the Y. W. we were, my comrade (A. P.) and myself, students.

We were in that extremely difficult and ungrateful milieu, the High Schools.

After much effort and many letters, we founded the U. G. E. T. I. C. A. (General Union of Technical Students of Industry, Commerce and Agriculture.) This had the aim of organizing all the revolutionary elements in the Technical High Schools. This other schools having already in organization, "Communist Students."

It is in the interests of documentation that we wished to know your movement. Personally I have followed it with great interest. The development of your action in the essentially capitalist country is full of lessons